

# North Shore Amateur Radio Club

## ~ SPARKS ~

Summer, 1994

### ABOUT OUR REPEATER

Much of this summertime issue of SPARKS is devoted to a very old friend -- "Oshawa's Old Reliable" 2-meter repeater, VE3OSH.

We usually take it for granted that our repeater is just "there" all the time, whenever we want it. In fact, it takes planning, money and work to keep anything in this world working properly, including repeaters. A lot has been happening in recent weeks, bringing this usually-forgotten fact into focus.

### New Repeater Site

If you attended the past couple NSARC meetings you are aware that preparations to move 'OSH to a new location are well advanced. A site has been secured on the Shirley Road on Purple Hill, near Port Perry. At the time of writing, the foundation for a new and improved (read, heated and insulated) shack is in the ground, and the base and first section of an 85 foot tower have been installed. Work is proceeding on schedule for the operational repeater to be moved to the new location sometime later in the autumn.

Donations of time, money and good, used materials are needed. A complete list of required materials appears elsewhere in this issue. Check your basement and garage. This could be a satisfying opportunity to get rid of some of the junk that clutters up our shacks, but that we all save for years just because it seems so good to throw away!

### 'OSH Emergency Repair Team

Three unsung club heroes donate a lot of their time to keep 'OSH on the air for the

rest of us to enjoy. Eric, VE3HMG, has worked on the repeater for years. Some members of what has become our club's unofficial "repeater crew" are willing to solve problems *quickly*, just as soon as they are aware of them. If you find the repeater off the air or malfunctioning at any time, please give a landline call to one of these three:

Len	VE3SVD	985-7120
Glen	VE3LIZ	725-1545
Ralph	VE3CRK	576-8738

Remember ... if they don't know about a problem, they can't fix it !

### Cure for Summer Inversions

Sometimes (particularly in the summer) when monitoring VE3OSH, we who are using omnidirectional antennas from a high base location will hear unwanted chatter on other repeaters that use the same frequency from as far away as Chatham and Pennsylvania.

There is a simple cure. Did you know that several years ago, VE3OSH was equipped with a subaudible tone output on 156.7 Hz? If your rig has a CTCSS decoder, just set its tone squelch to this frequency, and it will open up only when it detects 'OSH

(continued)

North Shore Amateur Radio Club, Inc.  
P.O. Box 171  
Oshawa, Ontario, L1H 7L1

Club Events Station: VE3NSR  
Repeaters: 2 m VE3OSH 147.120 MHz (+)  
70 cm VE3NAA 443.000 MHz (+)

putting out its subaudible tone along with the voice messages that you want to hear. Other repeaters from far away do not have this tone, and therefore will not open your tone squelch. You won't be bothered with that annoying QRM from afar anymore. ■

## **SWAP SHOP**

**By Walter Beach, VE3FJC**  
**tel. 263-2338**

Ed. note: **NSARC members only**, please contact Walter (VE3FJC) on repeater or landline with any new listings, deletions, or wants of amateur radio equipment. When space is limited, the number of entries from any one person may be limited, to preserve a nice-looking layout, and to conserve paper. No commercial advertising, please.

### **For Sale - Len (SWL) , 723-6970**

RS scanner 2022, 200 memories, clean,  
with manual, \$200  
Active antenna for above, \$50  
Yaesu FRG-100 general coverage receiver,  
4 months old, \$550

### **For Sale - Walter, VE3FJC 263-2338**

Astron 20amp P/S model RS20a - \$150

### **For Sale - Laird, VE3LKS - 434-7339**

Commadore 64 computer, amber monitor,  
disk drive, P/S - \$150  
286 PC clone - 12mhz, 5.25 DSDD floppy,  
amber monitor, XT style keyboard, no  
hard drive - \$150

### **For Sale - Clare, VE3CXX - (905) 433-8937**

AEA CPI & CP100 rty, CW interface with  
software. Call !  
Heath SA-2500 2KW autotuner, \$350 or b/o  
Heath SB610 monitor scope, \$110 or b/o  
IC-271A 2 meter all mode, with ALL options  
installed. Call for more info.

**For Sale - Gary, VE3CNO - (905) 576-1654**  
CSI Private Patch autopatch with full docs.,  
\$400 or trade.

### **For Sale - Victor, VE3LNX - (905) 983-5831**

(New) Hustler mobile ant system 10-80 m  
with mount and fold-over mast \$155  
2c39s, 3cx100s, 7289s \$5 each.  
Ham II rotor and control box. \$250  
6146w series tubes, new and all checked,  
\$45 a pair plus shipping.  
Isapole for 220 MHz, with mast pipe, like  
new, \$55  
4CX250b tubes \$35 each or \$100 for four.  
Mariner 3000 rdf receiver for LF rdfing,  
asking \$125  
New 1" od aluminum tubing in 12 foot  
lengths, 0.095 ga  
903MHz 33 element loop yagi on 12' boom,  
\$35  
2304MHz 45 element loop yagi on 12'  
boom, \$30  
Sierra VLF receiver \$150  
Yaesu NC29 fast charger for FT23R,  
T73R, FT411, FT811 & FT470, \$110

## **NSARC at the C.N.E.**

Ralph, VE3CRK, advises that NSARC members are again invited to the Canadian National Exhibition (with free admission!) on the weekend of **Saturday, September 3rd**, to man (or woman!) the **amateur radio booth**. This is a great opportunity to evangelize about our hobby to members of the public -- and the be on the receiving end of a pileup for a change.

The **Warrior's Day** parade is another C.N.E. tradition in which our club participates by helping out with portable communications. If interested in either opportunity, contact Ralph.

***Problems are only  
solutions in disguise !***



## **New Ham !**

Congratulations to our former SWL **John Brennan**, who now makes his debut as **VA3BPJ**.  
We shall look forward to some QSOs with the latest recruit to our ranks.

## **NSARC's Most Wanted**

Your club needs you (or anyone) who has the means to be able to donate any of the following materials for the new repeater project, now well under way. If you have any surplus materials listed below, in good condition, they can be put to a lasting and worthy cause.

At the time of writing, some of these items may have been donated already. To be certain, please contact any of the repeater committee: Ralph, VE3CRK; Glen, VE3LIZ; or Len, VE3SVD.

- Climbing shields.
- Stainless steel "U" clamps
- PVC conduit, 2 lengths of 2" diam.
- PVC 2" entrance cap
- PVC 2" 90 deg. bend
- PVC 2" connector
- PVC 1.5" couplings (2)
- Underground cable, 33m, TWU-75 #2
- 15 amp breakers (6)
- Electrical boxes 2 1/4 x 4 (6)
- Interior lights (2)
- Interior switches (3)
- Interior wire 12-2 33m
- BX cable, 12-2 10m
- Hydro ground rods, 10 ft. (2)
- Marrettes (100) #30
- Wire staples (500)
- Wood screws (100) 1 1/4 #8
- Marrettes (100) #33
- Exterior door
- Lumber (2) 1x2x14ft.
- Wire ties
- PCV conduit 2 lengths of 1.5" diam.
- PVC 2" 45 deg. bend
- PVC 2" couplings (4)
- PVC 1.5" 90 deg. bend (2)
- Service wire #000, 23m
- Panel, 60A-M breaker
- Heater 1500 w
- Electrical boxes 4" hex (3)
- interior sockets (2)
- Cover plates (6)
- Patio slabs 2'x2' (6)
- BX connectors (6)
- Hydro ground clamps (2)

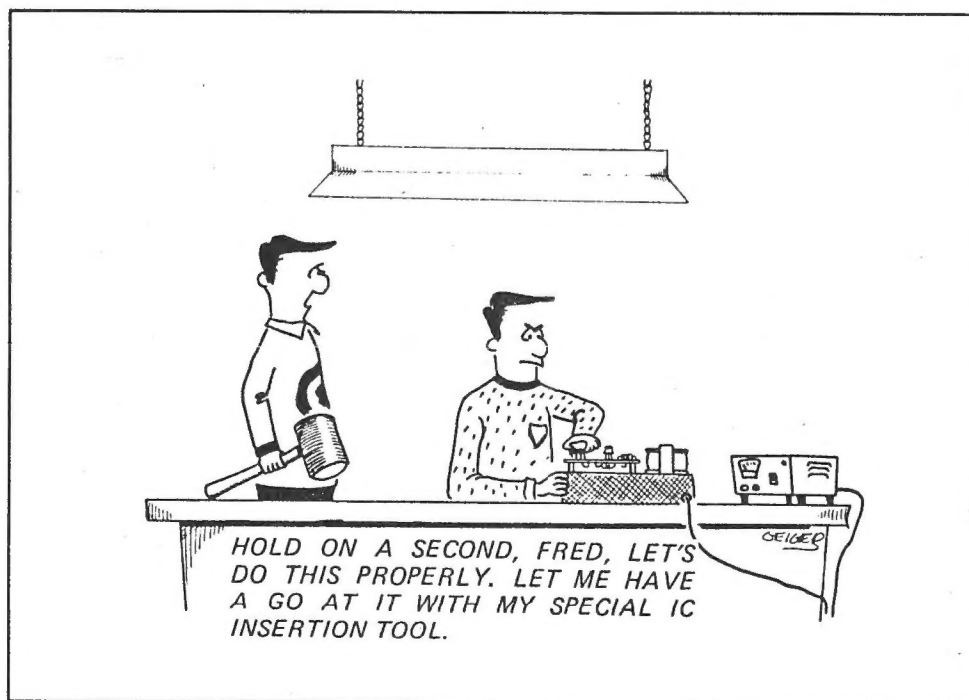
## Repeater Progress Chart

According to the last newsletter from the Western New York / Southern Ontario Repeater Council, these are the statistics of the repeaters for which they have helped coordinate frequencies:

Amateur Band (MHz)								
Year	29	50	144	220	440	902	1240	Totals
Before 1989	2	4	123	27	91	2	2	251
1989	0	0	12	0	13	0	0	25
1990	0	1	2	2	8	1	0	14
1991	0	2	10	1	16	0	1	30
1992	0	3	7	4	14	0	0	28
1993	1	3	5	2	27	0	3	41
<b>Totals</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>159</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>169</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>389</b>

Compliments of the WNYSORC.

Submitted by Glen, VE3LIZ



## The Origin of "73"

The traditional expression "73" goes right back to the beginning of the land-line days. It is found in some of the earliest editions of the numerical codes, each with a different definition, but each with the same idea in mind -- it indicated that the end or signature was coming up. There are no data, however, to prove that any of these were ever used.

The first authentic use of 73 is in the publication *The National Telegraph Review and Operator's Guide*, first published in April, 1857. At that time, 73 meant "My love to you!" Succeeding issues of this publication continued to use this definition of the term. Curiously enough, some of the other numerals used then had the same definition as they do now, but within a short time the use of 73 began to change.

In the *National Telegraph Convention*, the numeral was changed from the Valentine-type sentiment to a vague sign of fraternalism. Here 73 was a greeting, a friendly "word" between operators, and it was so used on all wires.

In 1859, the Western Union Company set up the standard "92" code. A list of numerals from one through ninety-two was compiled to indicate a series of prepared phrases for use by the operators on the wires. Here, in the 92 code, 73 changes from a fraternal sign to a very flowery "accept my compliments," which was in keeping with the florid language of that era.

Over the years from 1859 to 1900, the many manuals of telegraphy show variations of this meaning. Dodge's *The Telegraph Instructor* shows it merely as "compliments." *The Twentieth Century Manual of Railway and Commercial Telegraphy* defines it in two ways, one listing as "My compliments to you"; but in the glossary of abbreviations it is merely "compliments." Theodore A. Edison's *Telegraphy Self-Taught* shows a return to "accept my compliments." By 1908, however, a later edition of the Dodge *Manual* gives us today's definition of "best regards" with a backward look at the older

meaning in another part of the work where it is also listed as "compliments."

"Best regards" it has remained ever since as the put-it-down-in-black-and-white meaning of 73, but it has acquired overtones of much warmer meaning. Today, amateurs use it more in the manner James Reid had intended it to be used -- a "Friendly word between operators."

Loise Ramsey Moreau, W3WRE  
*ARRL Operating Manual*

## Exerpts from the June NSARC Minutes

**Treasurer's report:** Laird, VE3LKS, gave the monthly statement, which showed a balance of \$9,756.77, of which \$72.47 is earmarked for EMO and \$1,500 is dedicated to the flea market.

**Ham classes:** A call was made for anyone wishing to be the CW instructor for the 94/95 Ham night classes. Anyone interested may contact any of the executive or John, VE3SII.

**EMO:** Margaret, VE3BNN, reported that plans were under way to erect more antennas and repair some that had been damaged by accident. It is also likely that the EMO headquarters will be moving from Ajax to Whitby, with the possibility of gaining some storage space.

**Corn Roast:** Ron, VE3AIY, who is stepping down as co-ordinator, explained the work involved in organizing the August Corn Roast. No volunteer was on hand to carry on the tradition, so anyone interested should contact someone on the executive.

**Repeater:** Ralph, VE3CRK, gave an extensive report, including the news that the lease had been signed, the hole had been dug, and filled with 8 cubic yards of concrete, plus the first section of the tower is already in place. He then itemized materials already donated and the substantial savings made. Ralph asked the membership to amend the motion dealing with the original repeater move so that an extra \$900 could be donated to the project.

A motion was proposed by Winston, VE3WFS, and seconded by Jim Snr., VE3SDM, to amend the original sum of \$7,500 allocated to the repeater relocation, to include an additional \$900 to be allocated to the repeater committee for the purpose of relocating the repeater to the new site. ... Carried.

**Bill Lishman Project:** Jim Jnr., VE3UQZ, agreed to head the technical requirements.

Following the break, Winston, VE3WFS, added a new dimension by hosting a Bring and Brag session, where members were invited to bring along an assortment of items from home brew projects to rare QSLs to be shown and discussed at the meeting.



# THE BACK PAGE

## Club Meetings

NSARC meetings are the **second Monday** of each month. We meet at the Arts and Resource Centre in Oshawa on Queen Street except during **July and August**, when we have had the "Sermon on the Mount" and the "Corn Roast". Meetings begin promptly at **19:30** hours local time.

## Net and Code Practice

Club net every **Thursday** at **19:30** hours local time, with CW practice (starting slow and working up) at **20:30**. More net for the nightowls starting at **21:30**.

### Next Meeting:

### In Memoriam, Corn Roast ?

At the time of writing, nobody has expressed any interest in taking over responsibility for the annual Corn Roast, which would normally take place in lieu of a regular club meeting on Monday, August 8th. Please stay tuned to 'OSH and the club net for any new development on this issue. Let's hope it isn't **R.I.P.** for this long club tradition.

If there is no Corn Roast this year, the next regular meeting will be on Monday September 12 th.

### Area Digipeaters

VE3USH 144.970  
VE3SBX 144.990

## Executive

### President:

Robert O'Toole, VE3VKM 576-4264

### Vice President

Casey Coley, VE3NGT 623-0264

### Treasurer

Laird Solomon, VE3LKS 434-7339

### Secretary

George Day, VE3UEH 432-1368

### Program Director

Peter Johns, VE3WWZ 723-9049

## Co-ordinators

### A.R.E.S.

Margaret Jeffery, VE3BNN 725-1238

### Special Events Co-ordinator

Ralph Day, VE3CRK 576-8738

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Jim Tower Sr., VE3SVM 985-2673

Rick Gibson, VE3ASH 434-2886

Laird Solomon, VE3LKS 434-7339

Dave Hefford, VE3AJY 436-3026

### Registrar

Keith Wyard-Scott, VE3GDF 723-5758

### Get Well Cards

Anne Jones, VE3KWI 324-0638

### Nonquon Canoe Races

Glen Goslin, VE3LIZ 725-1545

### Field Day

Tom Rogers, VE3BTR 640-5549

### Instruction

John Nicholls 683-2495

### Auditor

Rick Gibson, VE3ASH 434-2886

### Lists and Labels

Paul Dale, VE3LHZ 434-6741

### J.O.T.A.

Tom Rogers, VE3BTR 640-5549